

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 30, 2003

Contact: Bill Nowling  
(517) 373-5899

## **GOP JOBS plan is ideal way to take advantage of strengthening national economy**

**Lansing** — As the national economy posts the fastest growth in almost 20 years, Michigan's economy needs the tools to take advantage of the economic turnaround, Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) said today.

Sikkema said the new economic report issued today by the federal government shows the need for the plan Senate and House Republicans laid out earlier this week. The Republicans' nine-point JOBS plan – "Job Opportunities for Business Success" – would help create manufacturing jobs, spur new small businesses and provide incentives to expand the state's slow-moving economy.

"Michigan lost one quarter of all the jobs lost nationally during the downturn," said Sikkema (R-Wyoming). "Now we have to make sure Michigan businesses are positioned to take advantage of the upswing. With the economic engines revving up, Michigan political leaders need to give the gas pedal a good push."

The report showed a 7.2 percent jump in the economy for the third quarter, the best quarter since 1984 and better than experts' predictions of 6 percent.

The initiative includes policies to revitalize Michigan's suffering tool & die industry, a sector hard hit with job losses and foreign competition. The package would create Tool & Die Recovery Zones to provide tax relief similar to a Renaissance Zone. The other main proposal is a tax incentive for new businesses. Under this proposal, small start-up businesses would be exempt from most taxes in their first two years of operation. They then would have their tax liabilities phased in over the following four years.

Other components include:

- Reauthorizing the soon-to-expire Michigan Economic Growth Authority to continue the state's main tax-incentive granting program for spurring economic development.
- Creating a venture capital investment incentive by offering income and Single Business Tax breaks to spur new investment in Michigan businesses, particularly in the high-tech

and life-sciences industries.

- Establishing a Clean Michigan Initiative revolving loan program to accelerate the clean up of abandoned brownfield sites.

“It’s time to take action, and that’s just what we’re doing,” Sikkema said.

He noted that by the end of next week, the Senate will have already taken action on approximately half the legislation for the package just announced on Monday.

“It’s easier to take action when you’ve been listening to your constituents all along,” Sikkema said.

###

## ***28<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT***

***State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913 | PH (517) 373.0797 | FAX (517) 373.5236 | [www.sikkema.org](http://www.sikkema.org)***